



Research & Outreach on Latinos and Changing Communities

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www.cambio.missouri.edu

About the Cambio Center

Established in the fall of 2004, the Center's main goals are:

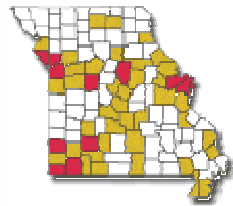
- Provide education and enhance the welfare of *all* residents of the state of Missouri in the context of the current demographic changes
- Develop knowledge, scholarship, and outreach to respond to the *local effects of globalization*
- Provide knowledge and best practices to facilitate the *integration of newcomers* to Missouri and the Midwest
- Understand the international nature of the immigration process, the cultures and institutions of Latin America, as a major global partner of Missouri in the *exchange of goods and the migration of people*

Cambio Center Tasks

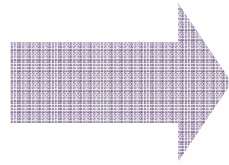
A Land-Grant university response:

- New knowledge: basic and applied research
- Organize *Cambio de colores* annual conference and workshops
- Support UM outreach & extension activities
- Support state agencies needing cultural competency and language resources

The Cambio Center model and the Land Grant University of Missouri



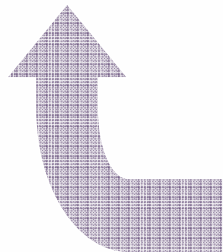
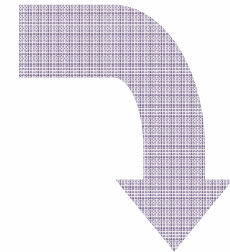
Immigration-driven
Changes :
Community,
Economic, Social,
Cultural



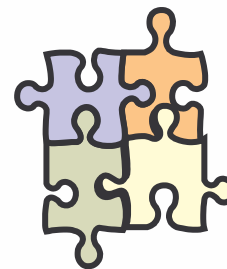
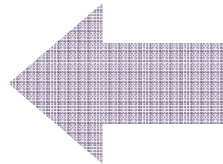
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

Alianzas
alliances

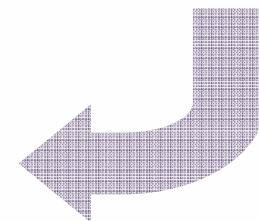
University of Missouri
System



Knowledge,
Data,
and Outreach for
All Stakeholders



Basic & Applied
Interdisciplinary
Research



Cambio Center Approach

- **Inclusive**: involve all stakeholders, newcomers and long-time residents
- Favor **asset-based** over **deficit-based** research, without excluding it
- Multi- and inter-disciplinary
- **Service-oriented**

Cambio Center Assets

- **Fellows:** thirty faculty of all disciplines interested on issues related to immigration and integration
- **Grants:** research efforts supported by external grants (e.g. USDA NRI)
- Interaction with state and local **agencies**
- **Community relationships:** centers involved with immigration

Integration or Assimilation?

(As used by the Cambio Center)

- It is possible to be assimilated without being integrated
- It is possible to be integrated without being assimilated
- It is possible to be neither
- It is common to be both

Integration

- Individual and group **are** integral part of the economic and social life
- Society as a whole **welcomes and benefits** from integration of a newcomer/group
- Does not assume uniformity: **Diversity**
- Examples of **successful** integration: you, me, Chinatowns, the Amish, some Native American groups, Hollywood (well...)

Assimilation

- Individual and group adopt the **culture** (behavior, aesthetic values) and language of other group
- There may be a **dominant** culture (usually the majority's)
- To assimilate or not to assimilate is always a **personal choice**

Who are the newcomers?

Very diverse group.

- **Mexican** coming from rural backgrounds in Mexico (rural and urban Mo)
- **Mexican-Americans** coming from small-urban & rural backgrounds in the SW U.S.A. (urban and rural Mo)

Also:

- **Hmong** people, coming from Laos by way of Wisconsin and Minnesota (mostly rural Mo)
- **Central Americans**: Guatemala, El Salvador (rural and urban Mo)
- **Europeans**: Bosnians, Ukrainians, Croatians, Russians (mostly urban Mo)

Potential Problems

The Newcomer

- Difficult **communication**: Do not know the language of the community
- Lack of **knowledge**: How does the system work?
- No **time** to learn: Busy lives
- **Prejudice** (“prior judgment”): Stereotypes about “gringos”

Potential Problems

The Receiving Community

- Difficult **communication**: Do not know the language of the newcomers
- Lack of **knowledge**: Why are immigrants coming?
- No **time** to learn: Busy lives
- **Prejudice** (“prior judgment”): Stereotypes about newcomers

Some Thinking Points

- Future generations: **marginalization** or **integration**?
- What needs to be done to help newcomers become **full community members** and **stewards** of the state?
- Educate and **learn** and **educate** and learn and...
- Who has the **resources** to effect positive change?
- What **assets** the newcomers bring to our state?

Current Research

- Asset Accumulation Strategies in 3 New Settlements Communities (3-year, USDA-funded)
 - What it helps or impedes the newcomers to **integrate and get ahead?**
 - Qualitative and quantitative research to understand the point of view of the newcomer

Current Research

- **Strategic Initiatives Projects**
 - **Understanding and Responding to the Needs of the Second Gene**
 - **Educational and Vocational Psychology Research:**
 - **Livelihoods Strategies of Latinos in Receiving and Sending Communities**
 - **Comparative Border Immigration in the Americas**

Diversity is not exclusion



Diversity is not exclusion



Let us dance together...

